

REMARKS

The present application was filed on June 21, 2001 with claims 1-29. Claims 2, 11, 13, 20 and 29 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 remain pending. Claims 1, 12 and 19 have been amended and are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding final Office Action dated February 28, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,731,308 (hereinafter "Tang"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

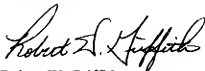
In regard to the rejection of claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Tang, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12, and 19 to clarify the subject matter of such claims. Independent claims 1, 12, and 19 now recite the dynamic display of a visual representation having a plurality of display windows including said collected presence information and icons indicating activity of participants' communicative devices, geographic locations of said participants and local times, and a calendar indicating participants' schedules and holidays for geographic locations. Support for this amendment can be found on page 27, line 12 through page 29, line 28, of the Specification. Applicants respectfully assert that these amendments adequately distinguish the claims from Tang.

Tang discloses a display window containing a contact list and selected information about contacts' activities. However, Tang fails to teach the dynamic display of a visual representation having a plurality of display windows including at least said participants, said collected presence information and icons indicating activity of participants' communicative devices, geographic locations of said participants and local times, a calendar indicating participants' schedules and holidays for geographic locations, and a set of mechanisms for a participant to select in conjunction with said displayed presence information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more others of said participants in said group for a particular collaborative purpose.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 12, and 19 are not anticipated by Tang. It follows that dependent claims 3-10, 14-18, and 21-28 are not anticipated by Tang due to their dependence on claims 1, 12, and 19. Dependent claims 3-10, 14-18, and 21-28 also recite patentable

subject matter in their own right. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Griffith" clearly distinguishable.

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